



On the road in San Nicolas? Learn the history behind some of its place names



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Man gets prison in U.S. for helping pressure Chinese expat to return home

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A real estate businessman who aided a Chinese effort to pressure an expatriate to return home has been sentenced to over a year in a U.S. prison.

U.S. prosecutors say Quanzhong An's activities were part of the Chinese government's "Operation Fox Hunt" repatriation campaign. Beijing says the initiative is about pursuing people who have fled justice. But Washington sees it as transnational repression, a term for governments working to silence dissenters beyond their borders.

"Quanzhong An acted at the direction of the (Chinese) government to harass and intimidate individuals living on U.S. soil as part of a pernicious scheme to force their repatriation," Brooklyn-based U.S. Attorney John Durham said in a statement Wednesday.

Messages seeking comment were sent Thursday to China's embassy in Washington and consulate in New York. China has previously denied threatening its nationals abroad.

An, a 58-year-old Chinese citizen and legal U.S. resi-



U.S. and Chinese flags wave at Genting Snow Park, Feb. 2, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China.

Associated Press

dent, pleaded guilty last year to acting as an illegal foreign agent. He was sentenced to 20 months behind bars. He has served seven of them already.

"Mr. An is in my opinion, on balance, a very fine man and accordingly, seeing him return to prison for even one additional day is heartbreaking," his lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said Thursday. But he noted that prosecutors had sought a

considerably longer prison term.

According to prosecutors and an indictment, An was the key U.S.-based player in a transcontinental effort targeting a former manager of a Chinese state-owned company. Prosecutors haven't named the man or the company.

Beijing has accused the man of embezzlement, identified him as an "Operation Fox Hunt" priority and

asked law enforcement agencies worldwide to find and apprehend him, according to the indictment. An, who lives in suburban Roslyn Heights, New York, showed up at the home of the target's son to try to find the father in 2017, the indictment said.

Then, in a series of recorded meetings with the son starting in early 2020, An leaned on him to secure his father's return to China. An said he

that was trying to help the Chinese government communicate with the two, and that he would look good to Chinese officials if he could arrange the father's return, according to the indictment.

While acknowledging that a Chinese embezzlement case against the father and son was a legally frivolous pressure tactic, An told the son that Chinese officials were monitoring the family's relatives and would "keep pestering you" if the father didn't return, the indictment said.

"Their intent is to make your life difficult," the indictment quotes him as saying.

An even offered to pay back the man's allegedly ill-gotten gains, according to the indictment, and eventually arranged for a Chinese official to press the man's son by phone.

In recent years, the U.S. Justice Department has charged dozens of suspects with acts of transnational repression on behalf of China or other countries. An and his daughter Guangyang An were charged in 2020, along with five other people who were then at large and believed to be in China. □

Federal judge blocks DOGE from accessing Social Security personal information for now

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Thurs-

day temporarily blocked billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency from Social Se-

curity systems that hold personal data on millions of Americans, calling their work there a "fishing expedition."

The order also requires the team to delete any personally identifiable data in their possession.

U.S. District Judge Ellen Hollander in Maryland found that the team got broad access to sensitive information at the Social Security Administration to search for fraud with little justification. "The DOGE Team is essentially engaged in a fishing expedition at SSA, in search of a fraud epidemic, based on little more than suspicion," she wrote.

The order allows DOGE staffers who undergo training and background checks to access to data that's been redacted or stripped of anything personally identifiable.

The ruling comes in a lawsuit filed by labor unions, retirees and the advocacy group Democracy Forward. They argued that DOGE access violates privacy laws and presents serious information security risks. The lawsuit included a declaration from a recently departed Social Security official who saw the DOGE team sweep into the agency said she is deeply worried about sensitive information being exposed.

The Trump administration claims DOGE is targeting waste in the federal government. Musk has been focused on Social Security as an alleged hotbed of fraud, describing it as a "ponzi scheme" and insisting that reducing waste in the program is an important way to cut government spending. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. DOGE detailed a 10-person team of federal employees at the SSA, seven of whom were granted read-only access to agency systems or personally identifiable information, according to court documents. □



Demonstrators gather outside of the Edward A. Garmatz United States District Courthouse in Baltimore, on Friday, March 14, 2025, before a hearing regarding the Department of Government Efficiency's access to Social Security data.

Associated Press

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Trump orders a plan to dismantle the Education Department while keeping some core functions

By COLLIN BINKLEY and
CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday calling for the dismantling of the U.S. Education Department, advancing a campaign promise to take apart an agency that's been a longtime target of conservatives.

Trump has derided the Education Department as wasteful and polluted by liberal ideology. However, completing its dismantling is most likely impossible without an act of Congress, which created the department in 1979. Republicans said they will introduce a bill to achieve that.

The department, however, is not set to close completely. The White House said the department will retain certain critical functions.

Trump said his administration will close the department beyond its "core necessities," preserving its responsibilities for Title I funding for low-income schools, Pell grants and money for children with disabilities. The White House said earlier it would also continue to manage federal student loans.

The president blamed the department for America's lagging academic performance and said states will do a better job.

"It's doing us no good," he said at a White House ceremony.

Already, Trump's Republican administration has been gutting the agency. Its workforce is being slashed in half, and there have been deep cuts to the Office for Civil Rights and the Institute of Education Sciences, which gathers data on the nation's



President Donald Trump signs an executive order in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Associated Press

academic progress.

Advocates for public schools said eliminating the department would leave children behind in an American education system that is fundamentally unequal.

"This is a dark day for the millions of American children who depend on federal funding for a quality education, including those in poor and rural communities with parents who voted for Trump," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said. Democrats said the order will be fought in the courts and in Congress, and they urged Republicans to join them in opposition.

Trump's order is "dangerous and illegal" and will disproportionately hurt low-income students, students of color and those with disabilities, said Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia, the top Democrat on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The department "was

founded in part to guarantee the enforcement of students' civil rights," Scott said.

"Champions of public school segregation objected, and campaigned for a return to 'states' rights." Supporters of Trump's vision for education welcomed the order.

"No more bloated bureaucracy dictating what kids learn or stifling innovation with red tape," Tiffany Justice, co-founder of Moms for Liberty, said on social media. "States, communities, and parents can take the reins tailoring education to what actually works for their kids."

The White House has not spelled out formally which department functions could be handed off to other departments or eliminated altogether.

The department sends billions of dollars a year to schools and oversees \$1.6 trillion in federal student

loans.

Currently, much of the agency's work revolves around managing money both its extensive student loan portfolio and a range of aid programs for colleges and school districts, like school meals and support for homeless students. The agency also is key in overseeing civil rights enforcement.

States and districts already control local schools, including curriculum, but some conservatives have pushed to cut strings attached to federal money and provide it to states as "block grants" to be used at their discretion. Block granting has raised questions about vital funding sources including Title I, the largest source of federal money to America's K-12 schools. Families of children with disabilities have despaired over what could come of the federal department's work protecting

their rights.

Federal funding makes up a relatively small portion of public school budgets roughly 14%. The money often supports supplemental programs for vulnerable students, such as the McKinney-Vento program for homeless students or Title I for low-income schools. Colleges and universities are more reliant on money from Washington, through research grants along with federal financial aid that helps students pay their tuition.

Republicans have talked about closing the Education Department for decades, saying it wastes taxpayer money and inserts the federal government into decisions that should fall to states and schools. The idea has gained popularity recently as conservative parents' groups demand more authority over their children's schooling. In his platform, Trump promised to close the department "and send it back to the states, where it belongs."

Trump has cast the department as a hotbed of "radicals, zealots and Marxists" who overextend their reach through guidance and regulation.

Even as Trump moves to dismantle the department, he has leaned on it to promote elements of his agenda. He has used investigative powers of the Office for Civil Rights and the threat of withdrawing federal education money to target schools and colleges that run afoul of his orders on transgender athletes participating in women's sports, pro-Palestinian activism and diversity programs. □

Texas wildfire prompts evacuations as Arkansas and Florida also battle blazes

By JIM VERTUNO, FREIDA FRISARO and ANDREW De-MILLO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Wildfires fueled by dry conditions and gusting winds burned in a few Southern states Thursday, forcing evacuations in Texas and prompting Florida officials to close part of a major highway with spring break in high gear.

A wildfire in Sam Houston National Forest near Houston prompted the evacuation of about 900 homes and closed schools. The National Weather Service issued elevated fire warnings around the nation's fourth-largest city.

The fire, which started Wednesday, had burned about 3.1 square miles (8 square kilometers) and was only about 10% contained Thursday morning, the Texas A&M Forest Service said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage, but the Cleveland Independent School District, which has about 12,000 students, canceled classes as a precaution.

Firefighters and law enforcement "did an such unbelievable job yesterday in protecting homes, ani-



In this image taken from video provided by WSVN-TV, a brush fire burns across and over Card Sound Road, the only other road connecting the Keys to Florida City on the mainland, as it remains closed Tuesday, March 18, 2025, south of Dade County, Fla.

mals, livestock and people. We've lost basically nothing, which is hard to believe," the county's top elected official, Montgomery County Judge Mark Keough, said. However, he said, expected wind gusts Thursday along with a drop in humidity could make the situation disastrous.

"We're asking the people who evacuated last night to stay still away from their homes," Keough said.

Florida fires

In the Florida Keys, a large brush fire that began Tuesday caused authorities to close one of the two roads leading in and out of the island chain, and intermittently shut down U.S. 1 so fire crews could move equipment.

Spring break is in full swing in Florida, and U.S. 1 is the major thoroughfare that connects the mainland to the islands. It is also a heav-

ily traveled road for people who live on the mainland and work at many of the hotels and restaurants in Key Largo and beyond.

Arkansas blazes

In Arkansas, crews responded to more than 50 fires Wednesday that were fueled by high winds.

The fires closed several highways, including a portion of Interstate 530 south-east of Little Rock due to heavy smoke.

Flames damaged structures in several cities, including Little Rock. The roof collapsed at St. Joseph's, a 115-year-old building in North Little Rock that once served as an orphanage and is now the home of a nonprofit that provides urban farming resources. What's causing the fires?

The South has experienced recent cold and dry conditions, followed by gusting winds, that have fanned the flames.

Texas has seen fire hazards range from the far northern Panhandle, where ground vegetation froze and dried out, and push hundreds of miles east to the coast.

South Florida has seen every little rainfall over the past few weeks. The rainy season doesn't start until sometime around mid-May. Another cold front with dry air is expected to push through South Florida on Thursday night, said meteorologist Donal Harrigan with the National Weather Service in Miami.

Red Flag warnings

The weather service issued Red Flag warnings for fire conditions in east Texas and South Florida and could extend them for several days. □

New York's top court blocks NYC from letting noncitizens vote

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York state's top court put

an end Thursday to New York City's effort to empower noncitizens to vote in municipal elections.

In a 6-1 ruling, the high court said "the New York constitution as it stands today draws a firm line restricting voting to citizens." New York City never actually implemented its 2022 law. Supporters estimated it would have applied to about 800,000 noncitizens with legal permanent U.S. residency or authorization to work in the nation. The measure would have let them cast a ballot for mayor, city council and other local offices, but not for president, Congress or state officials.

State Republican officials quickly sued over the law, and state courts at every level rejected it.

Republicans hailed Thursday's ruling from the state's

highest court, called the Court of Appeals.

"Efforts by radical Democrats on the New York City Council to permit noncitizen voting have been rightly rejected," NYGOP Chair Ed Cox said in a statement. The Republicans' attorney, Michael Hawrylchak, said they were pleased that the court recognized the state constitution's "fundamental limits" on voter eligibility. The city Law Department said it respected the decision.

A handful of Maryland and Vermont towns let noncitizens cast ballots in local elections, and noncitizen residents of Washington, D.C., can vote in city races. San Francisco allows noncitizen parents to partici-

pate in school board elections.

Farther south in California, residents of Santa Ana rejected a noncitizen voting measure last year. Some other states specifically prohibit localities from enfranchising noncitizens.

In New York, the state constitution says "every citizen shall be entitled to vote" if at least 18 years old and a state resident. The document adds that county and municipal election voters must live in the relevant county, city or village.

New York City argued that "every citizen" doesn't mean "citizens only," and that the city had a self-governance right to choose to expand the franchise for its own elections. □



Activists participate in a rally on the steps of New York City Hall ahead of a City Council vote to allow lawful permanent residents to cast votes in elections to select the mayor, City Council members and other municipal officeholders, Dec. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

Finland is again ranked the happiest country in the world. The U.S. falls to its lowest-ever position

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**
and **KOSTYA MANENKOV**
Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Finland is the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report 2025 published Thursday. Other Nordic countries are also once again at the top of the happiness rankings in the annual report published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. Besides Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden remain the top four and in the same order.

Aino Virolainen, a digital commerce director, has lived abroad but always wants to return home to Finland.

"This is where I always want to come back to and where I want to, you know, grow my kids and grow old myself," Virolainen said Thursday. "And I think it's because, you know, the peace and the quietness and the trustworthiness. You know, how we speak directly and the nature, of course. It's clean and the air is fresh and what's there not to love?"

Country rankings were based on answers people



People enjoy a sunny and frosty day after sweating in the sauna of the public bath in Helsinki, Finland, Saturday, March 15, 2025.

give when asked to rate their own lives. The study was done in partnership with the analytics firm Gallup and the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

"Happiness isn't just about wealth or growth it's about trust, connection and knowing people have your back," said Jon Clifton, the CEO of Gallup. "If we want stronger communities and economies, we must invest

in what truly matters: each other."

Sharing meals and having somebody to count on. Researchers say that beyond health and wealth, some factors that influence happiness sound deceptively simple: sharing meals with others, having somebody to count on for social support, and household size. In Mexico and Europe, for example, a household size of four to five people

predicts the highest levels of happiness, the study said.

Believing in the kindness of others is also much more closely tied to happiness than previously thought, according to the latest findings.

As an example, the report suggests that people who believe that others are willing to return their lost wallet is a strong predictor of the overall happiness of a

population.

Nordic nations rank among the top places for expected and actual return of lost wallets, the study found.

Alexandra Peth, a managing director, said Finnish culture prioritizes trust and connection.

"People trust each other in Finland and I think on many levels in the society, we try to support each other," Peth said.

"So I think the system makes it kind of that you can trust it somehow."

Overall, researchers said that global evidence on the perceived and actual return of lost wallets shows that people are much too pessimistic about the kindness of their communities compared to reality actual rates of wallet return are around twice as high as people expect.

The U.S. falls to its lowest-ever position in the happiness ranking

While European countries dominate the top 20 in the ranking, there were some exceptions.

Despite the war with Hamas, Israel came in at eighth. Costa Rica and Mexico entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking at sixth and 10th respectively. □

Associated Press

A Texas robotics company gets approval to search for MH370 in a new part of the Indian Ocean

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's government has given final approval for a Texas-based marine robotics company to renew the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which is believed to have crashed in the southern Indian Ocean more than a decade ago.

Cabinet ministers agreed to terms and conditions for a "no-find, no-fee" contract with Texas-based Ocean Infinity to resume the seabed search operation at a new 15,000-square-kilometer (5,800-square-mile) site in the ocean, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said in a statement Wednesday. Ocean Infinity will

be paid \$70 million only if wreckage is discovered.

The Boeing 777 plane vanished from radar shortly after taking off on March 8, 2014, carrying 239 people, mostly Chinese nationals, on a flight from Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, to Beijing. Satellite data showed the plane turned from its flight path and headed south to the far-southern Indian Ocean, where it is believed to have crashed.

An expensive multinational search failed to turn up any clues to its location, although debris washed ashore on the east African coast and Indian Ocean islands. A private search in

2018 by Ocean Infinity also found nothing.

The final approval for a new search came three months after Malaysia gave the nod in principle to plans for a fresh search. Ocean Infinity CEO Oliver Puntett earlier this year reportedly said the company had improved its technology since 2018. He has said the firm is working with many experts to analyze data and had narrowed the search area to the most likely site.

Loke said his ministry will ink a contract with Ocean Infinity soon but didn't provide details on the terms. The firm has reportedly sent a search vessel to the site

and indicated that January-April is the best period for the search.

"The government is committed to continuing the

search operation and providing closure for the families of the passengers of flight MH370," he said in a statement. □



A Malaysian boy wipes his tears during a special prayer for the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 at a church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Associated Press

Rwanda-backed rebels push into a mineral-rich town in Congo, ignoring ceasefire calls

By **JUSTIN KABUMBA and MONIKA PRONCZUK**
Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Rwanda-backed rebels battling Congo's army have pushed into a strategic, mineral-rich town in the east, ignoring calls for a ceasefire this week by the Congolese and Rwandan presidents as the M23 rebel group expands its footprint in the conflict-torn African country.

The decades-long conflict in eastern Congo escalated in January, when the M23 rebels advanced and seized the strategic city of Goma, followed by the town of Bukavu in February. The latest escalation came after the presidents of Congo and Rwanda held unexpected talks in Qatar on Wednesday and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

The meeting followed a failed attempt to bring Congo's government and M23 leaders together for ceasefire negotiations on Tuesday, with the rebels



Former members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and police officers who allegedly surrendered to M23 rebels arrive in Goma, Congo, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025.
Associated Press

pulling out after the European Union announced sanctions on rebel leaders. The rebels entered the town of Walikale late on Wednesday, according to residents and civil society leaders. Taking Walikale would give them control of

a road linking four provinces in eastern Congo: North Kivu, South Kivu, Tshopo and Maniema, and effectively cutting off Congolese army positions. "The rebels have been seen near the monument and at the Bakusu group office," Prince

Kihangi, a former provincial deputy elected for the Walikale territory, told The Associated Press over the phone, referring to locations in the town center. He did not elaborate on the sourcing. Heavy artillery fire could be heard throughout

the day but ceased in the evening, giving way to sporadic gunfire. Fiston Misona, a civil society activist in Walikale, told the AP over the phone. "Our Congolese army is no longer fighting," he said. "It's as if we were being sacrificed."

There was no immediate comment from the M23 or the Congolese government.

The Walikale area is home to the largest tin deposits in Congo and to several significant gold mines. The Bisie tin mine, around 60 kilometers (35 miles) northwest of the town, accounts for the majority of tin exports from North Kivu province. Last week, its operator Alpha-min Resources said it was temporarily halting mining operations due to the rebels' advance.

Speaking on Fox News earlier this week, Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi said he was open to a deal on critical minerals with the United States, in exchange for the Americans providing security. □

67,000 white South Africans have expressed interest in Trump's plan to give them refugee status

By **GERALD IMRAY**
Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — The United States Embassy in South Africa said Thursday it received a list of nearly 70,000 people interested in refugee status in the U.S. under President Donald Trump's plan to relocate members of a white minority group he claims are victims of racial discrimination by their Black-led government.

The list was given to the embassy by the South African Chamber of Commerce in the U.S., which said it became a point of contact for white South Africans asking about the program announced by the Trump administration last month. The chamber said the list does not constitute official applications.

Trump issued an executive order on Feb. 7 cutting U.S.

funding to South Africa and citing "government actions fueling disproportionate violence against racially disfavored landowners."

Trump's executive order specifically referred to Afrikaners, a white minority group who are descen-

dants of mainly Dutch and French colonial settlers who first came to South Africa in the 17th century. The order directed Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem to prioritize humanitarian relief to Afrikaners

who are victims of "unjust racial discrimination" and resettle them in the U.S. under the refugee program.

There are approximately 2.7 million Afrikaners in South Africa, which has a population of 62 million. Trump's decision to offer some white South Africans refugee status went against his larger policy to halt the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

The South African government has said that Trump's allegations that it is targeting Afrikaners through a land expropriation law are inaccurate and largely driven by misinformation. Trump has posted on his Truth Social platform that Afrikaners were having their farmland seized, when no land has been taken under the new law.

The executive order also criticized South Africa's for-

eign policy, specifically its decision to accuse Israel of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza in a case at the United Nations' top court. The Trump administration has accused South Africa of supporting the Palestinian militant group Hamas and Iran and taking an anti-American stance. The U.S. has also expelled the South African ambassador, accusing him of being anti-America and anti-Trump. An official at the U.S. Embassy in the South African capital, Pretoria, confirmed receipt of the list of names from the South African Chamber of Commerce in the U.S. but gave no more detail.

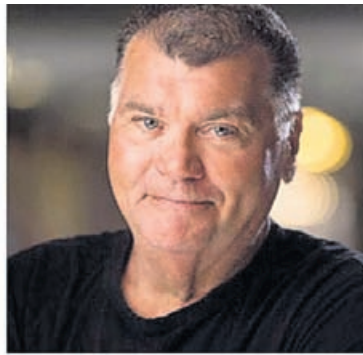
Neil Diamond, the president of the chamber, said the list contains 67,042 names. Most were people between 25 and 45 years old and have children. □



White South Africans demonstrate in support of U.S. President Donald Trump in front of the U.S. embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, Feb. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

On Friday March 21st, the animals of Aruba win with the One Love Foundation and Aruba Ray's Comedy!



ORANJESTAD – On Friday March 21st, a wonderful charity event will be taking place to benefit the animals of Aruba. One Love Foundation, Inc. and Aruba Ray's Comedy are teaming up to raise money to support life-saving sterilization programs on the island.

All money raised that night will be matched 1:1, dou-

bling the impact, by Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort Aruba.

The "1st Annual Paws-itively Hilarious Standup Comedy Benefit in Aruba" will be held at the Eagle Aruba Resort and will feature a VIP pre-show cocktail hour, an outstanding standup comedy show, gift bags, a fabulous raffle for a vaca-

tion stay at the Eagle Aruba Resort, many impressive door prizes thanks to businesses on the island, and a post-show dance party featuring popular local DJ Rogger.

Ray Ellin (aka Aruba Ray), the owner of Aruba Ray's Comedy Club, is hosting and producing the show. He has booked THREE headlining comedians for the event: Tony Viveiros, Brian Scott McFadden, and Jim Colliton. All of the comedians have performed on major television shows, and Mr Ellin will be appearing with Chris Distefano at Madison Square Garden in September.

"I wanted this event to be extra special, so I'm putting three excellent performers who I would usually space apart, all on one show," said Ellin. "I love animals, I love Aruba, and I love standup. So for me, this event is a no-brainer. And for ANYONE who wants to help the dogs and cats on the island while having a fantastic night out, it's a no-brainer as well." □



Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)--If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area includes the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.



San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas. □

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say “Masha Danki” to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
 Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
 Goodwill Ambassadors
 Mr. Robert & Mrs. Karen Grunfeld from Wantagh New York, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Playa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba’s people.
- Aruba’s beaches.
- Aruba’s restaurants.
- “The excellent staff at Playa Linda”
- “The feeling of safety & security on the island”



On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the “One Happy Island”. □

Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you

feel up for something different—or if it’s opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach. Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.



This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



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Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very

special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharón Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill

from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get



an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora

and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

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Snakes you may encounter on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Cascabel, Santanero and Boa differ from each other in a couple ways, and local perspective on each one may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. In fact, it's the only venomous snake native to the island. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it, as it could not only be dangerous, but

this snake is also endemic to the island, and its preservation has become a legal mandate for all residents and visitors.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation ef-

forts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. Native as well to the island, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes.

The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous but are what is called constrictor snakes; they kill by wrapping themselves around a prey and suffocating them. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly in white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly.

Boas are a non-native species and are invasive to the island, risking the population of native lizards and birds. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. If you ever encounter a Boa, please do not approach it. Instead, please call the Arikok National Park, as they are experienced in handling Boas. □



The Aruban Cunukero From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their



cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced



its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red. □

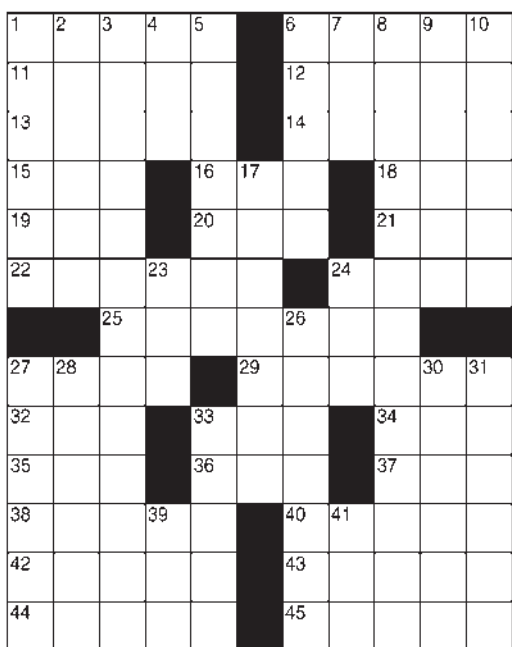


CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Once more
1 Cattle spread
6 Entrance support hall
11 Corn-husker city
12 Goofy
13 "Under-stand?"
14 Flexes
15 Quarter-back Manning
16 "Evita" role
18 Model buy
19 2016 Olympics host
20 That lady
21 Genesis name
22 Shop tool
24 Title paper
25 Hunting goddess
27 Hay unit
29 Pinnacle
32 Spots
33 Half a sawbuck
34 Notre Dame's Par-seghian
35 Catch some z's
36 Rink surface
37 — Plaines

- DOWN**
- 1 Astaire's frequent partner
2 Activist Bloomer
3 Stadium in Washing-ton, D.C.
4 Letter before psi
5 Chopper
6 Bran offering
7 Binary digit
8 Stadium in New York
9 Salad green
10 Took it easy
17 Non-believer
23 Rap's Dr. —
24 Party staple
26 Geolo-gist's concern
27 Split start
28 Saws
30 Threat ender
31 Goes by
33 Penalized
39 "— had it!"
41 French friend



3-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

J CBHD WDBLGDR FHDL OCD

QDBLT OCBO ZCDG FGD'T AJGR

JT ABRD SU, OCJT RJAJGJTCDT

MDBL. — LFTB UBLIT

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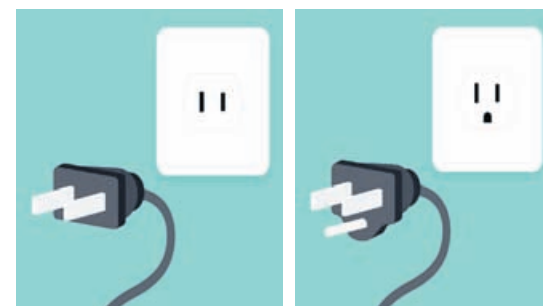
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	B	1
		EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	16.30	****	C	1
		STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	F	1
SUN	16	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - Dept.	****	17.00	C	-
		SILVER MOON	08.00	23.00	B	1
MON	17	AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	B	1
		RESILIENT LADY	09.00	23.59	C	1
		NORWEGIAN GEM	07.00	17.00	I	1
TUE	18	MSC DIVINA	08.00	22.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1
WED	19	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	10.30	23.00	C	1
THU	20	WIND STAR	10.00	23.00	G	1
		ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
FRI	21	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	11.30	20.30	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



In the rapidly shifting world of work, many employees are unclear what's expected of them

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Nikelle Inman started a new job coaching first-generation college students, she looked forward to meeting with them one-on-one to talk about how to surmount obstacles and find resources to succeed.

Instead, she and her fellow success coaches at a community college in North Carolina spent a year mired in paperwork, tasked with reviewing applications from aspiring undergraduates. They never did get to meet with students.

"Admissions work kind of took over what we were supposed to do," Inman, 34, said. "I felt disengaged with the position, more so because I just didn't feel valued."

It's disorienting when a job turns out to be completely different than advertised or morphs into something we didn't expect. But more U.S. workers have reported feeling disconnected from their organization's purpose and unclear on how to meet expectations since the coronavirus pandemic changed the way we work, according to a new Gallup analysis.

Just under half of U.S. employees who participated in a Gallup survey in November "strongly agreed"



Associated Press Illustration / Annie Ng

that they know what is expected of them at work, which is one of the factors the polling firm uses to measure employee engagement. In January 2020, the figure stood at 56%.

The new survey showed that new employees, younger employees, people in white-collar industries like technology, insurance and finance, and those in hybrid work arrangements were especially likely to report that expectations for their roles weren't clear.

The findings make intuitive sense. Managers and employees have bush-

whacked their way through disruptive changes since COVID-19 first upended public life five years ago. In late 2024, about one-quarter of employees with the ability to work remotely were doing so exclusively, up from around 1 in 10 in 2019, Gallup found. Another 55% were working in the office some days and remotely the rest, according to the 2024 data, up from about one-third in 2019.

More recently, layoffs at tech companies and in the government and other sectors have left organizations with fewer people to han-

dle the load, and expectations aren't always adjusted to the new realities.

"With all the rounds of layoffs, people's scope and responsibilities are shifting constantly," said Jeremy Guttenplan, an executive leadership trainer and coach based in New York. "You think about the ones left behind and the work is just getting piled on them." Here are some strategies for eliminating confusion when the scope and responsibilities of a job are ambiguous.

Establish expectations early

Spell out or make sure you

understand what a new role or project entails along with any relevant deadlines or performance markers from the beginning so everyone agrees on what's realistic and wanted. Writing it down in a shared document can help prevent future misunderstandings.

When a successful real estate developer asked Amber Krasinski to film and produce 85 TikTok videos in three hours, she thought hard about whether she really wanted to take him on as a client. The job might be good exposure for her communications agency, IvyHill Strategies, but Krasinski knew it would be impossible to complete in so little time. She turned it down.

Krasinski regularly gives her client progress updates and tries to make a practice of asking clarifying questions before taking on new projects. "Any time I have a conversation with a prospective client, I have that in the back of my mind," Krasinski said.

"Avoiding that people-pleasing side that says, 'You can figure it out, you can do it.' You don't want to let anybody down, but you also need to set yourself up for success."

Seek frequent feedback
No one wants to spend all day in meetings. □

Amazon ends little-used privacy feature that let Echo users opt out of sending recordings to company



This July 29, 2015, file photo shows Amazon's Echo speaker, which responds to voice commands, in New York, July 29, 2015.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

Amazon is ending a little-used privacy feature that let some users of its Echo smart speaker prevent their voice commands from going to the company's cloud.

Beginning on March 28, Amazon is ending the "Do Not Send Voice Recordings" option that kept audio from being sent to Amazon's cloud and had it process locally on the device instead.

In an email sent to customers who'd been using the option, Amazon said it made the decision to "no longer support this feature" as it expands Alexa's capabilities with generative artificial intelligence features that rely on being processed in the cloud.

While the change may sound alarming to some privacy-minded users, it was not widely used or available. It only worked on three devices: the 4th generation Echo Dot, the Echo Show 10 and the Echo Show 15 and only for customers in the U.S. with devices set to English. Amazon said less than 0.03% of customers use it.

People still have the option to prevent Alexa from saving voice recordings. Those who'd been using the "Do Not Send" feature as of March 28 will automatically be opted into the "Don't save recordings" option, Amazon said.

"The Alexa experience is designed to protect our customers' privacy and keep their data secure, and that's not changing. We're focusing on the privacy tools and controls that our customers use most and work well with generative AI experiences that rely on the processing power of Amazon's secure cloud," Amazon said in a statement. □

Thanks to Ohtani, MLB enjoys huge success in Japan and has momentum heading into 2025 season

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Baseball Writer

TOKYO (AP) — There was the crack of Shohei Ohtani's bat, the roars from the Tokyo Dome crowd and the beeps from the credit card machines at the massive merchandise center selling boatloads of Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago Cubs gear.

It all must have been music to the ears of Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred.

The 2025 season couldn't have had a much better start for the sport, which showcased its international appeal over the past week in Japan. The Tokyo Dome hosted a capacity crowd of roughly 42,000 for all four games — two exhibitions against Japanese teams and two regular-season games — and thousands more came downtown to enjoy the spectacle of a wildly successful overseas trip.

It's all part of MLB's winning streak as it barrels toward its domestic opening day on March 27. The game is in solid health with a slight increase in stadium attendance and a quicker pace of play thanks to a series of rules changes that started in 2023.

"To the city of Tokyo and



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani waves to fans as he walks off the field after the team's MLB Tokyo Series baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Associated Press

the country of Japan, on behalf of the Dodgers and Major League Baseball, we just want to say thank you," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

"You guys were all such great hosts.

"Hopefully we put on a good show." It's hard to argue otherwise.

Ohtani's towering solo homer in the Dodgers' 6-3 win on Wednesday night put an exclamation point on a two-game sweep in

which five Japanese players returned home, including four who played quite well, navigating the suffocating pressure of performing in front of their home fans.

Chicago's Shota Imanaga and Los Angeles' Yoshinobu Yamamoto got things started with the first all-Japanese starting pitching duel in opening day history. Both delivered, with Imanaga throwing four scoreless innings and Yamamoto re-

sponding with five quality frames of his own, giving up just one run over five innings in the Dodgers' 4-1 win.

In the second game, Dodgers rookie Roki Sasaki made his big league debut, firing four 100 mph fastballs to start his career in three electrifying if a little erratic innings that showcased his potential. Chicago's Seiya Suzuki was the only one with a quiet homecoming, going hitless in the two games.

But the center of attention was undoubtedly Ohtani, who handled the massive expectations with grace and skill. He went 3 for 8 with a pair of walks, including the solo homer that just cleared the wall in right-center field, giving the Dodgers a 6-2 lead.

Even Chicago's Pete Crow-Armstrong unwittingly contributed to the fairy tale scene, flipping Ohtani's home run ball into the stands where a 10-year-old Japanese boy caught it and became an instant celebrity.

"You know, it's not surprising," Roberts said. "Nothing Shohei does surprises me. Everyone here tonight came to watch Shohei perform and put on a show. And like Shohei does, he always seems to deliver.

"It was a great moment for everyone for him to hit a home run here at the Tokyo Dome."

The festive scene was in stark contrast to last year's two-game series in South Korea between the Dodgers and San Diego Padres, when news of a gambling scandal involving Ohtani's translator Ippei Mizuhara marred the series and briefly tarnished Ohtani's spotless reputation. □

Former NFL, Michigan assistant coach Matt Weiss charged with hacking for athlete's intimate photos

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Former NFL and University of Michigan assistant football coach Matt Weiss hacked into the computer accounts of thousands of college athletes seeking intimate photos and videos, according to an indictment filed Thursday.

Weiss, who worked for the Baltimore Ravens before joining Michigan's staff in 2021, was charged with 14 counts of unauthorized computer access and 10 counts of identity theft.

The indictment was filed in federal court in Detroit.

Weiss was fired in 2023 as

Michigan's co-offensive coordinator after failing to cooperate with the school's investigation of his access to computers.

Phone and email messages seeking comment from his attorney, Doug Mulkoff, were not immediately returned Thursday.

From 2015 to 2023, Weiss gained access to the databases of more than 100 colleges and universities that were maintained by a third-party vendor, Kefter Development Services, and then downloaded personal information and medical data of more than 150,000 athletes, the indictment states.

The 14-page document portrays him as a computer whiz, saying Weiss "cracked the encryption protecting the passwords, assisted by research that he did on the internet."

He then got access to the social media, email and cloud storage accounts of more than 2,000 athletes as well as more than 1,300 students or alumni from schools across the country, according to the indictment.

"Weiss primarily targeted female college athletes," the indictment said. "He researched and targeted these women based on their school affiliation, ath-

letic history and physical characteristics. His goal was to obtain private pho-

tographs and videos never intended to be shared beyond intimate partners." □



Michigan co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Matt Weiss watches before an NCAA college football game against Maryland in Ann Arbor, Mich., Sept. 24, 2022.

Associated Press



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NBA champ Celtics sold for record \$6.1 billion to group led by private equity mogul Bill Chisholm

By **TIM REYNOLDS and JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writers

BOSTON (AP) — Private equity mogul William Chisholm agreed to buy the Boston Celtics on Thursday in a deal that values the NBA's reigning champions and the most-decorated franchise in league history at a minimum of \$6.1 billion — the largest price ever for American professional sports team.

If the deal is approved by the NBA's board of governors this summer, the sale would top the \$6.05 billion paid for the NFL's Washington Commanders in 2023. A Massachusetts native and graduate of Dartmouth College and Penn's Wharton School of business, Chisholm is the managing partner of California-based Symphony Technology Group. The new ownership group also includes Boston businessmen Rob

Hale, who is a current Celtics shareholder, and Bruce Beal Jr.

"Growing up on the North Shore and attending col-

lege in New England, I have been a die-hard Celtics fan my entire life," Chisholm said in a statement. "I understand how impor-

tant the Celtics are to the city of Boston — the role the team plays in the community is different than any other city in the country. I

also understand that there is a responsibility as a leader of the organization to the people of Boston, and I am up for this challenge." Wyc Grousbeck, whose family leads the ownership group that bought the team in 2002 for \$360 million, said Chisholm asked him to stay on as CEO and Governor for the next three seasons, "and I am glad to do so."

"Bill is a terrific person and a true Celtics fan, born and raised here in the Boston area," Grousbeck said. "His love for the team and the city of Boston, along with his chemistry with the rest of the Celtics leadership, make him a natural choice to be the next Governor and controlling owner of the team. I know he appreciates the importance of the Celtics and burns with a passion to win on the court while being totally committed to the community. □



The Boston Celtics logo is seen at center court on the parquet floor before an NBA basketball game between the Boston Celtics and the Atlanta Hawks Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press